

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)	
)	
or Revocation of the Educator)	CONSENT ORDER
)	OF SUSPENSION
Certificate of Christopher A. Cornwell)	
)	
Certificate 902940)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this certificate suspension or revocation matter on May 11, 2005. On October 26, 2005, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Christopher A. Cornwell a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 902940 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Cornwell received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt. Mr. Cornwell has now agreed to resolve the matter without a hearing. Mr. Cornwell has consented to the voluntary suspension of his certificate for a two-year period, which would retroactively commence from July 16, 2004, and end on July 15, 2006. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the suspension of Mr. Cornwell's certificate.

Christopher A. Cornwell, 902940
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Initial

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Cornwell holds a South Carolina certificate with over nineteen years of teaching experience, all in the Fairfield County School (District). Mr. Cornwell was assigned to the Fairfield Career & Technology Center as an Automotive Collision Repair teacher. During the 2003-2004 school year, Mr. Cornwell accessed inappropriate websites from his school computer during school hours. Mr. Cornwell resigned from the District as of July 16, 2004.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1991). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). After considering the findings, the State Board concludes that there is substantial evidence to support the suspension of the educator certificate of Christopher A. Cornwell for two years, from July 16, 2004, through July 15, 2006. If Mr. Cornwell wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, Mr. Cornwell may make a written request to the Office of Teacher Certification of the Department.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

May 11, 2005

I, Christopher A. Cornwell, SC Teaching Certificate 902940, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on Wednesday, May 11, 2005.

/S/ Christopher A. Cornwell
Christopher A. Cornwell

4/2/05
Date